

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A system for preventing [[the]] deformation of ~~sails which are~~ a sail mounted on a reel ~~reels,~~ comprising:

means (14; 20) ~~designed to fashion for providing~~ an additional volume in [[the]] a central part of [[the]] a reel, ~~characterized in that the sail mounted on said reel is; and~~

a sail wound around the reel and being non-deformable in compression around the reel and non-deformable in compression parallel to [[its]] the sail's luff, ~~and in that it is produced from said sail comprising a fabric comprising with~~ transverse and longitudinal fibers (18, 18') resistive to compression and local buckling, the compression resistive longitudinal fibers being parallel to a luff of said sail, said transverse and longitudinal fibers ~~this fabric~~ being incorporated between two films (17, 17'), the ~~whole then~~ fibers and films being bonded.

2. (currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said films (17, 17') ~~are films of~~ comprise ethylene glycol polyterephthalate.

3. (currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein said means ~~designed to~~

~~fashion an additional volume in the central part of the reel~~
~~consists of~~ comprises a biconical housing with two frustoconical
parts reel (14).

4. (currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sail comprises slats (16) stitched into it, parallel to its luff.

5. (currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said reel is protected by a fairing (22) forming an aerofoil.

6. (currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 5, ~~characterized in that this~~ wherein said fairing (22) is one of cylindrical, conical [[or]] and biconical shape.

7. (currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said fairing (22) comprises, on its inside, a protruding part in the form of a spoiler (23) which presses against the sail (21).

8. (currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said fairing (22) comprises, on its inside, a protruding part in the form of a spoiler (23) which presses against the sail (21).

9. (new) A system for preventing deformation of a sail that is mounted on a reel, the system comprising:

means for providing an additional volume in a central part of a reel; and

a sail wound on the reel and comprising a fabric with two films and compression resistant transverse and longitudinal fibers between and bonded to said two films, said compression resistant longitudinal fibers being parallel to a luff of said sail and said compression resistant transverse fibers being transverse to the luff, said compression resistant transverse and longitudinal fibers being provided beneath an entire surface of said sail.

10. (new) The system as claimed in claim 9, wherein said sail is made from a single piece of said fabric.